

2007 West Virginia Conservation Partnership Congressional Tour Report



WV Conservation Partnership Congressional Tour 2007

Itinerary



Monday, August 13:

- 11:45 AM Introductions and Lunch at Stonewall Jackson Resort
Sponsored by: West Fork Conservation District
- 1:00 PM Travel to Elkwater Fork Dam Construction site
- TVCD Comments: Joe Gumm and Jim Harman
 - NRCS Comments: Louis Aspey and Dick Judy
- 4:30 PM Travel to Kesling Mills
- 6:30 PM Arrive at Kesling Mills for Dinner
Sponsored by: WV Resource Conservation & Development Association
Return to Stonewall Jackson Resort

Tuesday, August 14:

- 8:00 AM Travel to Upper Buffalo Site 22 Flood Control Structure
- 9:30 AM Arrive at Upper Buffalo Site 22
- MCD Comments: Don Headley
 - NRCS Comments: Ray Carr
- 10:45 AM Travel to Damon's
- 11:30 AM Lunch at Damon's
- 12:45 PM Depart for Gary Walls farm near Cooper's Rock State Forest
- Comments by Gary Walls
- 1:10 PM Arrive at Gary Walls farm
- 2:00 PM Travel to Dillan A-29 PL566 Land Treatment Site
- 2:45 PM Arrive at Dillan Site A-29
- NRCS Comments: Louis Aspey and Dick Judy
- 3:00 PM Depart for Monongahela Conservation District Office
- 3:30 PM Arrive at Monongahela Conservation District for light refreshments
- 4:00 PM Travel to Jackson's Mill
- 5:00 PM Arrive at Jackson's Mill
- WVCA Comments: Larry Layman and Gene Saurborn
- 5:30 PM Depart to Lambert's Winery for Dinner
- 6:30 PM Arrive at Lambert's for Wine Tasting and Dinner
Return to Stonewall Jackson Resort

Wednesday, August 15:

- 8:30 AM Travel to Law Farm (Lost Creek)
- 9:15 AM Arrive at Law Farm
- Comments by Richard Law
 - NRCS Comments by Jeff Griffith
- 10:15 AM Travel to Salem Fork Flood Control Structure, Dark Hollow Dam
- 11:15 AM Arrive at Salem Fork Dark Hollow Dam
- WFCD Comments: Jim Foster
 - NRCS Comments: Louis Aspey and Jeff Griffith
- 11:45 AM Travel to Clarksburg
- 12:30 PM Arrive at Minard's for Lunch
- 2:00 PM Return to Stonewall Jackson Resort and Charleston, West Virginia

WV Conservation Partnership Congressional Tour 2007
Speaker Contact Information

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Monday, August 13:

Elkwater Fork Dam Construction site :

TVCD Comments: Joe Gumm, Route 2, Box 264-9 Elkins, WV 26241 & Jim Harman, Route 2, Box 182-A, Elkins, WV 26241

NRCS Comments: Louis Aspey, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, 75 High St., Room 301, Morgantown, WV 26505 & Dick Judy, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, 75 High St., Room 301, Morgantown, WV 26505

Kesling Mills for Dinner , Sponsored by: WV Resource Conservation & Development Association, James L. McClelland, P.O. Box 2985, Huntington, WV 25728

Tuesday, August 14:

Upper Buffalo Site 22

MCD Comments: Don Headley, 75 Pike View Drive, Fairview, WV 26570

NRCS Comments: Ray Carr, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, White Hall Service Center, 7007 Mountain Park Drive, White Hall, WV 26554

Gary Walls farm near Cooper's Rock State Forest: Comments by Gary Walls, Route 1, Box 337 Bruceton Mills, WV 26525

Dillan Site A-29 PL566 Land Treatment Site

NRCS Comments: Louis Aspey, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, 75 High Street, Room 301, Morgantown, WV 26505

Jackson's Mill

WVCA Comments: Larry Layman, West Virginia Conservation Agency, Greenbrier Valley Conservation District, 179 Northridge Drive, Lewisburg, WV 24901 & Gene Saurborn, West Virginia Conservation Agency, Morgantown Field Office, 201 Scott Avenue, Morgantown, WV 26508

Wednesday, August 15:

Law Farm: Comments by Richard Law, Route 2, Box 281 B, Lost Creek, WV 26385

NRCS Comments by Jeff Griffith, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, Mount Clare Service Center, Route 2, Box 204-D, Mount Clare, WV 26408

Salem Fork Flood Control Structure, Dark Hollow Dam

WFCD Comments: Jim Foster, Route 1, Box 105, New Milton, WV 26411

NRCS Comments: Louis Aspey, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, 75 High St., Room 301, Morgantown, WV 26505 & Jeff Griffith, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, Mount Clare Service Center, Route 2, Box 204-D, Mount Clare, WV 26408

2007 West Virginia Conservation Partnership Congressional Tour List of Participants

Congressional Staff

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West Virginia Conservation District Supervisors

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Southern Conservation District
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Joe Gumm, First Vice President, WV Association of Conservation Districts
Tygarts Valley Conservation District
Randolph County
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Art Mouser, Treasurer, WV Association of Conservation Districts
Monongahela Conservation District
Preston County
Route 1, Box 24
Independence, WV 26374
(304) 892-3991

James Foster, Secretary, WV Association of Conservation Districts
West Fork Conservation District
Doddridge County
Route 1, Box 105
New Milton, WV 26411
(304) 349-4985

Gary Oates, Past President, WV Association of Conservation Districts
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West Virginia Conservation Agency

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West Virginia Resource Conservation and Development Association

James McClelland, President, WV Resource Conservation and Development Association
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Greater Huntington Park and Recreation District
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2007 WV Conservation Partnership Congressional Tour

A Review in Pictures

Elkwater Dam Construction Site
Randolph County, Tygarts Valley Conservation District



Upper Buffalo Site 22 Flood Control Structure Marion County, Monongahela Conservation District



Gary Walls Farm
2006 Second Place Conservation Farm of the Year Winner
Preston County, Monongahela Conservation District



**Dillan A-29 PL566 Land Treatment Site
Monongalia County, Monongahela Conservation District**



The Law Farm
2007 Conservation Farm of the Year Winner
Harrison County, Westfork Conservation District



Salem Fork Flood Control Structure, Dark Hollow Dam Harrison County, Westfork Conservation District



West Virginia Conservation District Facts

What are Conservation Districts?

Across the United States, nearly 3000 conservation districts -- 14 in West Virginia -- are helping local people to conserve land, water, forests, wildlife and related natural resources. Known in various parts of the country as "soil and water conservation districts," "resource conservation districts," "natural resource districts," "land conservation committees" and similar names, they share a single mission: to coordinate assistance from all available sources -- public and private, local, state and federal -- in an effort to develop locally driven solutions to natural resource concerns.

Nationally, more than 15,000 volunteers serve in elected or appointed positions on conservation districts' governing boards. In West Virginia, 106 volunteers serve as supervisors on the governing boards of conservation districts. (Conservation District Supervisor is an elected position in West Virginia.)

How did Conservation Districts originate?

In the early 1930s, along with the greatest depression this nation ever experienced, came an equally unparalleled ecological disaster known as the Dust Bowl. Following a severe and sustained drought in the Great Plains, the region's soil began to erode and blow away, creating huge black dust storms that blotted out the sun and swallowed the countryside. Thousands of "dust refugees" left the black fog to seek better lives.

On Capitol Hill, while testifying about the erosion problem, soil scientist Hugh Hammond Bennett threw back the curtains to reveal a sky blackened by dust. Congress unanimously passed legislation declaring soil and water conservation a national policy and priority. Since about three-fourths of the continental United States is privately owned, Congress realized that only active, voluntary support from landowners would guarantee the success of conservation work on private land.

In 1937, President Roosevelt wrote the governors of all the states recommending legislation that would allow local landowners to form soil conservation districts. All 50 states now have conservation districts.

West Virginia's Soil Conservation Committee was created in 1939. Its functions and programs were to conserve soil and retard erosion. This committee was mandated to develop and provide assistance to soil conservation districts within the state. The first conservation districts were created in 1940. Today, there are 14 West Virginia Conservation Districts. In 2002, the state legislature changed the name of the committee to "State Conservation Committee" to show that the committee's responsibilities went beyond soil to all natural resources such as air and water.

What are Conservation Districts doing?

Although Conservation District activities will vary according to the needs of the local area, here is a list of some common activities.

- Helping implement farm conservation practices to keep soil in the fields and out of waterways
- Helping conserve and restore wetlands, which purify water and provide habitat for birds, fish and numerous other animals
- Protecting groundwater resources
- Planting trees and other land cover to hold soil in place, clean the air, provide cover for wildlife and beautify neighborhoods
- Helping developers and homeowners manage the land in an environmentally sensitive manner
- Managing and maintaining flood control, recreation and water supply structures
- Reaching out to communities and schools to teach the value of natural resources and encourage conservation efforts

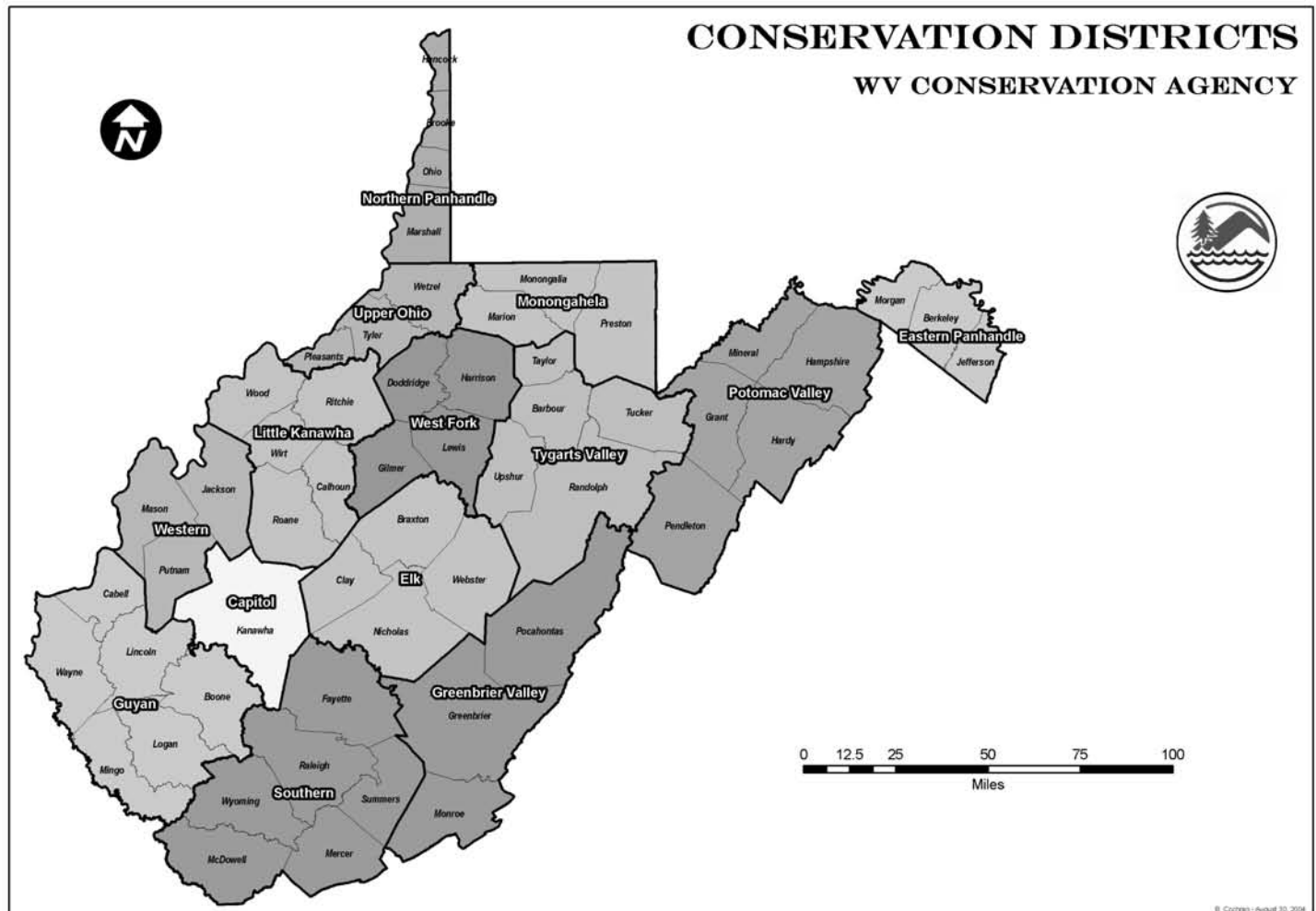
How can you get involved?

- **Volunteer.** Districts need help with everything from planting seedlings in wetland restoration projects to filing in the office. Contact your district to let them know you are willing to help.
- **Practice good stewardship at home.** You can improve your corner of the world by composting food scraps and lawn clippings in your backyard, conserving green areas in your urban neighborhood or implementing best management practices on your farm. Ask your district for assistance.
- **Exercise your right to vote.** Conservation District Supervisor is an elected position in West Virginia.

Where Is Your Conservation District?

www.wvacd.org

www.wvca.us



Conservation District Phone Numbers

•**Capitol:** 304-759-0736
Kanawha

•**Eastern Panhandle:** 304-263-4376
Berkeley, Jefferson, Morgan

•**Elk:** 304-364-5105
Braxton, Clay, Nicholas, Webster

•**Greenbrier Valley:** 304-645-6173
Greenbrier, Monroe, Pocahontas

•**Guyan:** 304-528-5718
Boone, Cabell, Lincoln, Logan, Mingo, Wayne

•**Little Kanawha:** 304-422-9088
Calhoun, Ritchie, Roane, Wirt, Wood

•**Monongahela:** 304-296-0081
Marion, Monongalia, Preston

•**Northern Panhandle:** 304-238-1231
Brooke, Hancock, Marshall, Ohio

•**Potomac Valley:** 304-822-5174
Grant, Hampshire, Hardy, Mineral, Pendleton

•**Southern:** 304-253-0261
Fayette, McDowell, Mercer, Raleigh, Summers, Wyoming

•**Tygarts Valley:** 304-457-3026
Barbour, Randolph, Taylor, Tucker, Upshur

•**Upper Ohio:** 304-758-2512
Pleasants, Tyler, Wetzel

•**West Fork:** 304-627-2160
Doddridge, Gilmer, Harrison, Lewis

•**Western:** 304-675-3054
Jackson, Mason, Putnam

West Virginia Conservation Districts Contact Information

Capitol Conservation District

Kanawha
418 Goff Mountain Rd. Suite 102
Cross Lanes, WV 25313
Phone: (304) 759-0736
Fax: (304) 776-5326

Eastern Panhandle Conservation District

Berkeley, Jefferson, Morgan
151 Aikens Center, Suite 1
Martinsburg, WV 25401
Phone: (304) 263-4376
Fax: (304) 263-4986

Elk Conservation District

Braxton, Clay, Nicholas, Webster
801 State Street
Gassaway, WV 26624
Phone: (304) 364-5105
Fax: (304) 364-5434

Greenbrier Valley Conservation District

Greenbrier, Monroe, Pocahontas
179 Northridge Drive
Lewisburg, WV 24901
Phone: (304) 645-6173
Fax: (304) 645-4755

Guyan Conservation District

Boone, Cabell, Lincoln, Logan, Mingo, Wayne
2631 5th Street Road
Huntington, WV 25701
Phone: (304) 528-5718
Fax: (304) 697-4164

Little Kanawha Conservation District

Calhoun, Ritchie, Roane, Wirt, Wood
91 Boyles Lane
Parkersburg, WV 26104
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Fax: (304) 422-9086

Monongahela Conservation District

Marion, Monongalia, Preston
201 Scott Avenue
Morgantown, WV 26508
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Fax: (304) 285-3151

Northern Panhandle Conservation District

Brooke, Hancock, Marshall, Ohio

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Mc Mechen, WV 26040

Phone: (304) 238-1231

Fax: (304) 242-7039

Potomac Valley Conservation District

Grant, Hampshire, Hardy, Mineral, Pendleton

500 East Main Street

Romney, WV 26757

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Southern Conservation District

Fayette, McDowell, Mercer, Raleigh, Summers, Wyoming

463 Ragland Road

Beckley, WV 25801

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Fax: (304) 253-0238

Tygarts Valley Conservation District

Barbour, Randolph, Taylor, Tucker, Upshur

Route 4, Box 501

Philippi, WV 26416

Phone: (304) 457-3026

Fax: (304) 457-6927

Upper Ohio Conservation District

Pleasants, Tyler, Wetzel

10 Pleasant View Lane

Sistersville, WV 26175

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Fax: (304) 758-4303

West Fork Conservation District

Doddridge, Gilmer, Harrison, Lewis

Route 2, Box 204-E

Mt. Clare, WV 26408

Phone: (304) 627-2160

Fax: (304) 624-5976

Western Conservation District

Jackson, Mason, Putnam

224-C First Street

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